

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
SIBYL COLON,

PLAINTIFF,

-against-

Case No.:
16-CV-4540

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, ET AL,
DEFENDANT.

-----X
ALLISON WILLIAMS,

PLAINTIFF,

-against-

Case No.:
16-CV-8193

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, ET AL,
DEFENDANT.

-----X

DATE: June 20, 2019

TIME: 11:20 A.M.

DEPOSITION of a non-party
witness, KENYA SALAUDEEN, taken by the
Plaintiffs, pursuant to a Subpoena and to
the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, held
at the office of Lexitas Court Reporting
Service, 48 Wall Street, New York, New York
10005, before Vanessa L. Kennedy, a Notary
Public of the State of New York.

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

FLORESTAL LAW FIRM

Attorney for the Plaintiffs

SIBYL COLON

ALLISON WILLIAMS

48 Wall Street

New York, New York 10005

BY: MARCEL FLORESTAL, ESQ.

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of Counsel

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

GENERAL COUNSEL

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BRIAN CLARKE

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250 Broadway

New York, New York 10007

BY: JANE E. LIPPMAN, ESQ.

* * *

F E D E R A L S T I P U L A T I O N S

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by
and between (among) counsel for the
respective parties herein, that filing and
sealing be and the same are hereby waived.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
that all objections, except as to the form
of the question, shall be reserved to the
time of the trial.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
that the within deposition may be sworn to
and signed before any officer authorized to
administer an oath, with the same force and
effect as if signed and sworn to before the
Court.

* * * *

1 SALAUDEEN

2 K E N Y A S A L A U D E E N, called as a
3 witness, having been first duly sworn by a
4 Notary Public of the State of New York, was
5 examined and testified as follows:

6 EXAMINATION BY

7 MR. FLORESTAL:

8 Q. Good morning, Miss Salaudeen.

9 A. Good morning.

10 Q. The court reporter is taking
11 down everything that is being said in this
12 room today. She can only take down one of
13 us at a time so please try to let me finish
14 my question before you answer. Even if you
15 can anticipate where I'm going with my
16 question please let me finish the question
17 so that we can have a nice and clean
18 record. The court reporter cannot take
19 down a nod of your head or other utterance
20 like mm-hmm's or uh-huh's. Please make
21 sure to state your responses clearly. If
22 you don't understand any of my questions
23 please tell me and I will try to rephrase.
24 If you answer a question, I will presume
25 that you understood the question. If you

1 SALAUDEEN

2 A. Yeah. I mean, I'd have to
3 confirm. I think that's the name.

4 Q. How long were you there for?

5 A. Four months, maybe.

6 Q. Prior to that?

7 A. I was with the New York City
8 Housing Authority.

9 Q. Let's talk about that; how long
10 were you with the New York City Housing
11 Authority otherwise known as NYCHA?

12 A. '15, '16 about -- just shy of
13 two and a half years.

14 Q. Can you tell us what role you
15 served in during those two and a half years
16 at NYCHA?

17 A. My title was director of human
18 resources and labor relations. Director of
19 human resources and labor relations.

20 Q. What exactly does that entail?

21 A. I had primary responsibility
22 for all of the services that came out of
23 the human resources department which
24 included employee and labor relations.

25 Q. What sort of employee and labor

1 SALAUDEEN

2 relations services would you be tending to
3 in the HR department?

4 A. Generally I would become
5 involved in employer (sic) relations and
6 matters that were escalated from my staff.

7 Q. You said employee relations
8 matters?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That were escalated from your
11 staff?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What exactly does that mean?

14 A. That means that we had an
15 employee relations unit and concerns,
16 complaints, questions, primarily came
17 through that unit and if it was of a series
18 or egregious enough nature, they would
19 escalate it to me.

20 Q. Do you recall who were members
21 of that unit, the names of the individuals
22 who made up that unit?

23 A. I don't recall.

24 Q. How large was that unit; how
25 many employees did it contain?

1 SALAUDEEN

2 A. It's been a while. I blocked
3 it out of my memory so I really don't
4 recall.

5 Q. Does the name Richard Bennardo
6 mean anything to you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was he a member of that unit?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Does the name Marla Edmonson
11 mean anything to you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was she a member of that unit?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What do you currently do at in
16 your current position?

17 A. I am responsible for human
18 resources services.

19 Q. What does that entail?

20 A. A litany of services; would you
21 like me to go through all of them?

22 Q. Absolutely.

23 A. Employee relations, benefits,
24 administration, new hire orientation,
25 guidance, advisement.

1 SALAUDEEN

2 Q. When you say employer
3 relations, does it entail disciplining
4 employees if the need should arise?

5 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

6 A. I don't discipline any
7 employees.

8 Q. Who would do that?

9 A. It would be the manager.

10 Q. Do you advise the manager as to
11 the proper protocol?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. Do you have a legal background
14 Miss Salaudeen?

15 A. I do not.

16 Q. What is your educational
17 background?

18 A. Master's degree in
19 organizational leadership.

20 Q. Why did you leave NYCHA?

21 A. I was terminated.

22 Q. Why were you terminated?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. Do you recall your last day at
25 NYCHA?

1 SALAUDEEN

2 A. The end of March. I don't
3 recall what --

4 Q. Of what year?

5 A. 2017.

6 Q. Are you familiar with
7 Sibyl Colon the former director of OPMOM?

8 A. I remember her.

9 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

10 A. I remember her name.

11 Q. How are you familiar with
12 former director of OPMOM Sibyl Colon?

13 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

14 A. I can't say I'm familiar with
15 her aside from her name.

16 Q. Do you recall ever dealing at
17 NYCHA with Sibyl Colon?

18 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

19 A. What do you mean by dealing?

20 Q. Have you ever spoken to her?

21 A. I would assume yes.

22 Q. Have you ever worked on a
23 matter with her during your tenure at
24 NYCHA?

25 A. Not that I recall; nothing

1 SALAUDEEN

2 opportunity to finish.

3 Q. My apology.

4 A. So then there's another
5 exchange between Laurence Wilensky and
6 Sybille Louis and Sibyl Colon and then an
7 email from Sibyl Colon to Richard Bennardo
8 and Marla Edmonson.

9 Q. Richard Bennardo and
10 Marla Edmonson you stated both reported to
11 you; correct?

12 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

13 A. At various points in time yes.

14 Q. Now can you tell us; does NYCHA
15 keep data tabulations of race and ethnicity
16 of their residences?

17 A. I have no idea. I do not know.

18 Q. Do you know why
19 Richard Bennardo and Marla Edmonson would
20 need data tabulations of the racial
21 breakdown of Mill Brook Houses?

22 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

23 A. I don't know that they did
24 needed it. If they needed it, I don't know
25 why. According to this email, Sibyl

1 SALAUDEEN
2 initiated a communication to
3 Richard Bennardo and Marla Edmonson
4 forwarding them the attachment, which is
5 the demographics of residents. So I don't
6 see that request came from them, but I see
7 Sibyl Colon forwarding it to them based on
8 this Exhibit that you gave me.

9 Q. Why would your department, the
10 department that you head, why would they
11 have need of the racial breakdown of the
12 Mill Brook Houses -- well any project
13 property rather?

14 A. Development.

15 Q. Development. Sorry.

16 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

17 A. I don't know why HR would have
18 a need for demographics about residents at
19 any of the developments.

20 Q. Have you ever requested
21 demographics of racial breakdown of
22 developments?

23 A. I would say no.

24 Q. Why would you say no?

25 Why would HR not need the

1 SALAUDEEN

2 racial breakdown of developments?

3 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

4 A. Well, I can tell you why I
5 wouldn't need the breakdown of residents.
6 So I would not need the breakdown of the
7 demographics of residents because my
8 responsibility was employees not residents.

9 Q. When you say I, you led the HR
10 department; correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 MS. LIPPMAN: Objection.

13 A. I was one of the leaders.

14 Q. Who was the other leader?

15 A. Well, ultimate responsibility
16 was CAOs, chief administration officers.

17 Q. Do you recall that person's
18 name?

19 A. In August of 2015?

20 Q. In '15, yes.

21 A. It could have been
22 Natalie Rivers.

23 Q. So you've never requested
24 during your tenure at NYCHA a racial
25 breakdown of any development for NYCHA?

